

Hidden Figures – Week 3: Rahab – 5-15-24

Tamar. Deborah. Rahab. Tamar & Rahab part of Jesus' family tree.

Matt. 1:5-6 = ⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.

Rahab is great, great Grandma to King David. Mother of Boaz.

When list of fathers pauses to highlight a specific woman, we should take note.

Rahab was an outsider, a woman with a past. Yet God weaves her story into His. Story gives us insight into God. Rewards good/punish evil. And yes, judgment. But God is also merciful and gives grace.

Rahab's story – **Joshua 2**. Prostitute in Jericho.

Now Tamar **disguised** herself as a prostitute, Rahab is one. And VRBO.

Joshua sent 2 spies, they stay at her house.

King of Jericho is told; "Bring out the men who came to spy our land." Small town!

Rahab lies. "they left at dusk" – she hid them on her roof under stalks of flax.

You may Q – can God bless a lying prostitute? Use her? Yes.

1 God is more interested in our faith – acts of faith – than in perfect behavior
- **God doesn't approve sin, but God accepts us. & we can be examples!**

Rahab's reputation later? **Faith Hall of Fame**. Abrah, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Noah.

Heb. 11:31 – ³¹ "By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient."

- Our faith matters to God more than our perfection.

Before the spies laid down for the night, she goes to roof and said:

Joshua 2:9-11 ⁹ "I know that the LORD has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. ¹⁰ We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. ¹¹ When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is **God in heaven above and on the earth below.**

Rahab knows about power of God; heard the stories, but no personal experience.

► When God saves us- rescues us- restores us- heals us – tell the story! It matters!!

Joshua 2:12-14 ¹² "Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a **sure sign** ¹³ that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death." ¹⁴ **"Our lives for your lives!"** the men assured her. "If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the LORD gives us the land."

Sign/Oath: tie scarlet cord in window – she won't tell & all her family in her house

② This is faith. She's trusting the men, but **she's really trusting in God.**

Expectation – God's promises are true, God's followers keep their promises.

B/c God is loving kindness, that is what we find in His family.

We also see the heart of Rahab. She isn't just looking out for herself. Family.

Sometimes we make bad choices, but comes from good intent.

Her prostitution... staying in her home... caring for others. Providing.

③ **God gives grace to good hearts.** He takes care of those who care ...

1 Sam. 16:7 – "I do not judge as people judge. They look at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart."

Joshua led the army around the city. 7 x. Shout. Walls of Jericho collapsed.

Joshua 6 - ²⁴ Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD's house. ²⁵ But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day."

④ Rahab's story reminds us – the family of God is open to all.

Prostitute would be an outcast. **God has no outcasts.** He brings them in.

God connects us, brings us together. God sets the lonely in families.

Psalm 68:6 – "*You find families for those who are lonely. You set prisoners free and let them prosper*" Rahab has a family w/ Salmon. **Family of Jesus.**

The spy who loved me?? Deut. 21:10-14 Book – "The Cord"

Rahab didn't have a good future in Jericho. God knows how to rescue us.

⑤ Jericho's story is about **destruction**, Rahab's is about **reconstruction**.

God knows how to turn our lives around if we will trust Him.

He accepts our past, but offers us a beautiful future. Walk w/ Him.

♥ Jesus said – **Matt. 1:31** – "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you."

Tie a scarlet rope and hold on! God reconstructs us. Fall Jericho, Rise Rahab

Song of the week – "Rahab's Lullaby" – Sandra McCracken, Sarah Macintosh & Rachael Lampa